



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo, 17<sup>th</sup> District

For Immediate Release August 5, 2011

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

## **SUPERVISORS RICE AND SANFELIPPO: STATEMENT ON COUNTY EXECUTIVE ABELE'S FAILURE TO ACT ON PARTISAN REDISTRICTING PLAN**

**Milwaukee, WI** – “We are disappointed with County Executive Abele’s failure to exercise leadership and to restore integrity and fairness in the redistricting of County supervisory district lines for the next ten years.

“Vetoing the blatantly self-serving redistricting plan would have been a far better solution as it could have helped restore faith in Milwaukee County government and address the calls for reform and a serious consideration of right-sizing the County Board.

“Instead, the County Executive took the most politically expedient route and allowed the plan to proceed without his signature. Mr. Abele claims he wants to be bipartisan and foster cooperation, but his actions on the redistricting matter clearly belie those goals.

“The process and substance of the flawed redistricting plan demonstrate a clear lack of respect for leaders of municipalities throughout the County who have unanimously opposed the plan. The County Board and County Executive have joined in ignoring the local officials who most closely represent the citizens of Milwaukee County.

“By virtue of his inaction, County Executive Abele has wasted a once-in-a-decade opportunity to rise above the fray and promote the type of change that candidate Abele advocated just a few short months ago. Instead, he has wed himself to the status quo and joined with those members of the County Board who simply want to advance political agendas.

“Equally disappointing is the rationale expressed by Mr. Abele in his statement that accompanied his inaction (*“I strongly considered vetoing this measure, but it appears that a veto would not be sustained.”*). This is a disturbing absence of leadership and a foreboding of a County Executive whose criteria for decision-making is not whether or not the policy is good for the County, but rather whether or not he can curry sufficient favor with the County Board.

“Apparently, if he is not guaranteed a win, he is not interested in fighting for what is right.”

###